

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/079,577

Examiner

Tarifur R Chowdhury

Applicant(s)

TAKAHASHI ET AL.

Art Unit

2871

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment and submission under 37 CFR 1.111 filed on 01/15/04 & 04/02/04 respectively.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-14.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 02/22/02 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-14 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
3. The prior arts of record do not anticipate or render obvious to one skilled in the art a liquid crystal display apparatus comprising various elements as claimed, more specifically a reflection type polarizer disposed on the lower surface of the light pipe dividing the incident natural light coming from the light source via the light emitting means and emitted from the lower surface of the light pipe into a circularly polarized reflected light and a transmitted light, and the reflected light being emitted through the upper surface of the light pipe disposed at the lower surface of the light pipe, including all other recitations.
4. The closest reference USPAT 5,856,855 (Mol) discloses a liquid crystal display apparatus wherein a reflective polarizer is disposed at the lower surface of the light pipe and a liquid crystal shutter is disposed on the upper surface of the light pipe. However, Mol discloses that the light emitted from the light source is separated by the reflective polarizer into a reflected light which is reflected within the light pipe and a transmitted beam which is then forward-diffused back through the reflective polarizer by the diffuser or reflected by the reflector and transmitted by the reflective polarizer. Thus in Mol, the light reflected by the reflective polarizer is not emitted by the light pipe until it has been depolarized, transmitted by the reflective polarizer and forward-diffused or reflected to be re-transmitted by the reflective polarizer. Further, USPAT 6,590,625 and US 2003/0147042 are not available as references in an obviousness rejection because of

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common ownership as indicated in the statement of common ownership under 37 CFR 1.111 filed on 01/15/04 and 04/02/04.

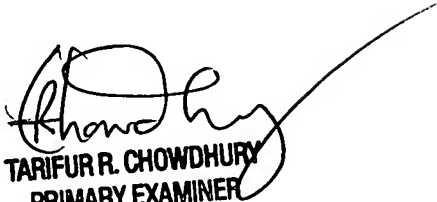
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tarifur R Chowdhury whose telephone number is (571) 272-2287. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th (6:30-5:00) Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Kim can be reached on (571) 272-2293. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TRC
April 03, 2004


TARIFUR R. CHOWDHURY
PRIMARY EXAMINER